A 20

LETTER

TO THE

LIVERYMEN

OF THE

CITY of *LONDON.*

Earneſtly recommended at this Juncture, not only to the Peruſal of every one qualified to Vote at the Election of Officers for this City; but to every Freeholder of *Great Britain*, who thinks himſelf at all intereſted in the Fate and Liberties of his COUNTRY.

By a TRUE BRITON.

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I BELIEVE that even thoſe amongſt you, who know the leaſt of the Laws and Conſtitutions of this City, are now thoroughly ſatisfied of the undoubted Right you have to deviate from that Cuſtom, which has for many Years been (perhaps ſometimes irrationally) obſerv'd, in the Method of chuſing your Annual, Supreme Magiſtrate.------I believe too, every one amongſt you will own, that it is poſſible for a Candidate, who aſpires at that high Honour, to have diſqualified himſelf from any Title to it, by his Malverſation and unworthy Behavior, either as a publick Magiſtrate, a Member of Society, or as a Repreſentative of his Country in Parliament. Taking theſe Things for granted, I beg leave to lay before you, how far a certain Gentleman, ſo much the Subject of publick Converſation at preſent, has forfeited his Title to that Honour, and to uſe ſome Arguments to perſuade you not to admit any Gentleman into your Poſts of Honour, let him be of what Party or Principles ſoever, who has ſo notoriouſly deviated from his Duty to you, and to the Publick, as the Gentleman I am ſpeaking of has undeniably done.

Every

Every one in the leaſt attentive to publick Affairs, muſt be well acquainted with what has paſs'd in the World with Regard to the late ------ ; the Honour and Intereſt of *England* were ſo little conſulted in it ; ſuch mean Conceſſions were made by it to the K-- of *S*----; it would have been of ſuch pernicious Conſequence to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, that not an honeſt, ſenſible, or impartial Man, was never heard to ſay one Word in its Defence. Nay, 'twas condemn'd and exploded by the united Voice of the whole Nation, even by thoſe Men in private, who were ſo amply p--- for ——g for it in the ————This Gentleman was one of thoſe who gave this glorious C———n the Sanction of the H——e of C———s ; he is himſelf a Merchant, and wants not Abilities to judge what is, and what is not for the Credit and Intereſt of this Nation ; and conſequently, what ſhould be rejected or approv'd, in a certain venerable Aſſembly---You cannot be miſtaken, Gentlemen, what were the real Motives by which he was influenc'd to vote for this C----n ; and unleſs he will convince you of the Integrity of his Heart, and the Cleanlineſs of his Hands, as to this Affair, by *his own Affidavit*, and other very ſubſtantial Proofs, I dare ſay it will be of little Weight with you, what *others* are pleas'd to ſwear in his Behalf

The Change of this Gentleman's Principles too cannot have eſcap'd your Notice, nor the extraordinary Circumſtances of that Change. 'Twas not long ago ſince he was the firſt of Patriots, and diſtinguiſh'd himſelf in a moſt ſingular Manner againſt C---t Influence, and in Defence of the Rights and Privileges of his Fellow Citizens ; but of late he has liſted himſelf under another Banner, and is become the T—l of thoſe, whoſe Endeavours have been as earneſt and unwearied to deprive you of your Freedom and Independency, as they have been (how ſucceſsful, judge you) to undermine thoſe Privileges which are the Support of all our Liberties, and which are the Boaſt and envied Happineſs of this Nation——A Change this, ſo great, ſo ſudden, ſo extraordinary ; and in one choſen by a Part of you to be a Patron of Trade, and a

Guardian

Guardian of your Liberties, that the Springs and Motives of it cannot but be plain to you, cannot but convince you, that the Cauſe of it was a vile one.

The Day, Gentlemen, is near at hand, when you are to chuſe your ſupreme Magiſtrate; the Eyes of all Ranks of Men are now upon you; you are the Subject of all Converſations, and muſt expect to be hiſs'd at, or applauded, by the whole Nation, and by the World, for your Conduct on that Occaſion. Remember, Gentlemen, certain of your late Elections, who it was that ſo impertinently interfered in thoſe Elections? Who it was, that brib'd all ſuch, as were vile enough to take a Bribe? Whoſe Money bought the Votes of ſuch, as were baſe enough to ſell them? See ye not for what Purpoſes ſo much Pains is taken, ſo much Money ſpent, ſo much Violence uſed, to force thoſe you hate into your City Places? Is it not to ſecure a Majority of ſuch Men in your City Councils, as would not only ſell themſelves, but you, and all your Liberties for Hire? Rouſe yourſelves, Gentlemen, from your Inſenſibility, for ſome of you are faſt aſleep; guard your Liberty and Independency, as well as your Merchandize, from Thieves and Robbers. Suffer not yourſelves to be deluded, infatuated, and bewitch'd, as ſome of you have long been, with Prejudice and Party. Open your Eyes, and ſee who and what they are, that compoſe the Majority in certain of your Aſſemblies, their Readineſs on all Occaſions to proſtitute themſelves to a C---t or M----r. Do not theſe Things alarm you, Gentlemen? Will they not change your Conduct? Will they not cure your Party Blindneſs? You *Engliſhmen* are as wiſe as *Romans*, why will you not act as wiſely? You have ſtronger Motives to be virtuous, why will you not be as uncorrupt and virtuous? Ye Citizens of *London* are richer than the Citizens of *Rome*, you have more Property to ſecure, Liberty ſhould be as dear to you: Why ſhould you be leſs zealous for your Liberty and Property than they were? The Name of *Engliſhman* has been almoſt as great as that of *Roman*; will ye unworthily debaſe it? Your great Forefathers have fought for Liberty, like *Ro-*

mans ; ſhould not you be fir'd at their Example ? Should not you contend for Liberty like them ? Should you cut off that Stream of Bleſſings, which they've convey'd to us, from flowing to our Children ? Will you imitate the *Romans* in their Vices, as well as Virtues ? In their Decline, as well as Grandeur ? Will you be as depraved, corrupted, and enervated, as the latter *Romans* ? And abandon yourſelves, like them, to Vice and Proſtitution ? O ye Citizens ! O my Countrymen ! Let not After-Ages talk of you, as now we talk of fallen *Rome !* Aſſume your ancient Virtues ; prevent your threatned Fall ; retrieve your ancient Fame : Your Strife for Liberty at Home, and thundering Fleets Abroad, may ſtill convince the World, you are not loſt to Virtue and to Glory. You Citizens of *London* ſtand upon an Eminence, and for an Example to all your Countrymen ; I ſay, their Eyes are all upon you ; they have long imitated your Conduct on every great Occaſion, and while your Example is worth the copying, they will ever copy it. --- Shew them now, Gentlemen, and in all your future Conduct, what an ineſtimable Value you put upon your Freedom ; that you are very jealous of your Liberties ; that you diſcountenace, and even brand, and ſet a Mark upon all ſuch, as do not vigorouſly aſſert your Rights and Privileges. Let not the Names of Party break in upon your Unanimity ; do not advance ſuch to Honours, who are a Shame to every Party ; thoſe who change Sides, not out of Principle, but for baſe and ſordid Views— Have the Intereſt of your Country in general in View, Gentlemen, in all your future Conduct, ſince your Example has ſuch Influence over all your Countrymen. —Conſider ſeriouſly the preſent State of the Conſtitution of this Kingdom ; reflect on a certain Liſt, lately made publick : who they are, that compoſe the ——— of our Times ; what Numbers are p--d, and with what Sums of Money, and for what Purpoſes, Purpoſes———let the late C———n tell them. Do your Parts, Gentlemen, to regulate theſe Evils ; elect none into your Places of Truſt, but ſuch whoſe Virtues, Steadineſs, and Integrity, you've had ſufficient Proofs of ; and tho' C--- Influence, Bribery,

Bribery, Corruption, or Bigotry to a Party, may prevail againſt Common Senſe, ſound Reaſon and Integrity, in the Elections of A---men, in ſome few infatuated Wards, yet as there are a great Majority of wiſe, and not to be corrupted Men amongſt you, it will always be in the Power of the Citizens in a Body, to govern all general Elections, and to keep out all ſuch, from Places of Truſt and Honour, as would proſtitute themſelves, and ſell you. I am very reſpectfully,

Gentlemen, your Well-wiſher,

and moſt Humble Servant,

An Inhabitant of *London*, but no Freeman.

Φ T.22
Harding
1946